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ABSTRACT

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) program of the Saginaw (Michigan) Public Schools achieved 8 of its 11 objectives for 1987-88. The program is designed for adults who have less than an eighth grade education, and provides basic and remedial instruction in mathematics and communication skills, as well as Michigan Life Role Competencies (MLRC), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Bilingual and Pre-General Educational Development (Pre-GED). Statistical data were collected from the "Adult Basic Education Information Sheet." Data were analyzed for each of the following categories of objectives listed in the 1987-88 program proposal: (1) enrollment; (2) dropout prevention; (3) recruitment; (4) achievement; and (5) cooperative arrangements. Findings include the following: (1) incarcerated participants were the only group to meet achievement goals; (2) the overall student achievement goal was not met; (3) when considered as a whole, the program evidenced a loss in student achievement when compared to the previous year. The results of this product evaluation were combined with a separately conducted process evaluation to form recommendations for improvement. Statistical data are included on seven tables. The appendices include the following: (1) a list of the Adult Basic Education Centers, 1987-88; (2) Number and Percent of 1987-88 ABE Participants by Racial/Ethnic, Age, and Sex Categories; (3) Saginaw Adult Basic Education Objective Reporting Form; and (4) Attainment Status of the 1987-88 ABE Objectives. (FMW)

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EVALUATION REPORT

SAGINAW ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
PRODUCT EVALUATION
1987-88

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SAGINAW ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
PRODUCT EVALUATION
1987-88

An Approved Report of the
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL
Department of Evaluation, Testing, and Research

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October, 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION 1

EVALUATION PROCEDURES 3

ANALYSIS OF DATA 4

Student Enrollment Goals 4
Dropout Prevention 5
Recruitment 6
Student Achievement 6
Cooperative Arrangements 8

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS 10

RECOMMENDATIONS 12

APPENDICES 13

Appendix A: Adult Basic Education Centers 1987-1988 14

Appendix B: Number and Percent of 1987-88 ABE Participants by Racial/Ethnic, Age, and Sex Categories 15

Appendix C: Saginaw Adult Basic Education Objective Reporting Form 16

Appendix D: Attainment Status of the 1987-88 ABE Objectives 17

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Adult Basic Education Participants by Program Classifications 1987-88	5
2	Attainment of ABE Performance Standard by Participant Categories and Total--1987-88	7
3	Comparison of 1986-87 and 1987-88 Attainment Results by Participant Categories	8
4	Summary of Attainment Status of the 1987-88 ABE Objectives	11
B.1	Number and Percent of 1987-88 ABE Participants by Racial/Ethnic Category	15
B.2	Number and Percent of 1987-88 ABE Participants by Age and Sex	15
D.1	Attainment Status of the 1987-88 ABE Objectives	17

INTRODUCTION

Saginaw Public Schools' Adult Basic Education (ABE) program recently completed its 27th year of operation. The program, which is administered through the Office of Adult and Continuing Education Services, is designed for adults who have less than an eighth grade education. ABE provides basic and remedial instruction in computation and communication skills, as well as Michigan Life Role Competencies (MLRC), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Bilingual and Pre-General Educational Development (Pre-GED). The ABE program serves a diverse population with program goals and objectives specifically aimed at the following groups:

- Adults from urban areas with high rates of unemployment,
- Adults from minority groups,
- Adults from rural areas,
- Adults with limited English speaking ability,
- Elderly persons,
- Handicapped adults,
- Immigrant adults,
- Institutionalized adults, and
- Women with special needs.

Throughout the school year a student may enroll and receive an individualized educational plan focusing on needs identified during the registration process. During the 1987-88 school year, 1,076 students received services by attending one or more of the 40 classes conducted at 19 centers throughout Saginaw. (See Appendix A for the name and address of each center.)

This past year the staff consisted of a full-time program supervisor, 22 teachers (16 full-time and 6 part-time), one full-time student advisor/counselor, a full-time curriculum coordinator and six teacher aides (3 full-time and 3 part-time).

During 1987-88 all of the groups cited above received services through the ABE program. Demographic data on the racial/ethnic background and gender of this year's population can be found in Appendix B.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

This evaluation will address the goals and objectives as stated in the 1987-88 ABE proposal. A process evaluation was also conducted and its results are presented in another report.

ABE data were recorded on the "Adult Basic Education Information Sheet" (see Appendix C for a copy). These sheets were collected every eight weeks by the program supervisor. During the first semester a staff inservice was conducted to discuss the correct recording and reporting procedures.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Data were analyzed for each objective listed in the 1987-88 proposal. The program supervisor provided the necessary additional information and program documents to measure other objectives listed in the proposal such as full-time instruction to inmates for 32 weeks and cooperative arrangements between local agencies.

The following sections will provide information on:

- Student enrollment goals,
- Dropout prevention,
- Recruitment,
- Student achievement (for those attending for 12 or more hours of instruction), and
- Cooperative arrangements.

Student Enrollment Goals

According to the 1987-88 proposal, student enrollment goals were specified for the nine population categories. Table 1 below presents the populations, minimum enrollment standards, number and percent in each population and whether each standard was attained.

TABLE 1. ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM CLASSIFICATIONS—1987-88.

Population (N=1,076)	Minimum Enrollment Standard	Number and Percent of Participants* N	%	Attainment of Standard
Adults with Limited English Language Skills	10%	111	10.3	Yes
Unemployed	15%	830	77.1	Yes
Rural	15%	76	7.1	No
Handicapped	10%	64	6.0	No
Minority	75%	830	77.1	Yes
Female Heads of Households and/or ADC Participants	15%	281	26.1	Yes
New Students	10%	636	59.1	Yes

*Figures may reflect duplicated counts.

A review of Table 1 indicates that five of the seven program enrollment standards were met. The criterion standard was not met for the rural and handicapped participants categories.

Dropout Prevention

One goal of the ABE program was to attain a dropout* rate of 40% or less for those students who receive 12 hours or more of instruction. This standard had not been met during the previous years.

*A dropout is defined as a student who leaves the ABE program for a reason other than employment, passing the General Educational Development (GED), or completing their ABE objectives.

A review of year-end data indicated that 392 (38.6%) of the 1,016 students that received 12 or more hours of instruction left the program. The dropout prevention standard was attained.

Recruitment

ABE conducted a recruitment campaign prior to the 1987-88 school year. The campaign consisted of the distribution of bulletins which contained general information about the program (i.e., class offerings, instructional centers, registration periods, program eligibility and phone numbers to call for information).

The major goals of the recruitment campaign were to attract new students and motivate past students to return. The recruitment goal was to enroll at least 10% new students. According to enrollment data 636 or 59.1% of the 1,076 students were new, thus the standard was met.

Student Achievement

Achievement data for the various program classifications for first semester and year end are presented below in Table 2. Program classifications included: handicapped, ESL, incarcerated, elderly, and regular (all other students not previously mentioned).

Individual objectives were assigned to 875 students receiving 12 or more hours of instruction. The standard for attainment was that 75% of these students would master 75% of their individually selected objectives. Achievement data was analyzed only for those students who had the following: program information sheets, individual objectives, and attendance of at least 12 hours. As a result, data on 875 (86.1%) of the 1,016 students were analyzed.

Table 2 below presents the results for the various program classifications and the total program.

TABLE 2. ATTAINMENT OF ABE PERFORMANCE STANDARD* BY PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES AND TOTAL—1987-88.

Participant Category	Number of Students	Students Meeting Criterion #	Students Meeting Criterion %	Performance Standard Attained
Handicapped	61	15	24.6	No
ESL/Bilingual	80	49	61.3	No
Incarcerated	42	33	78.6	Yes
Elderly	95	65	68.4	No
Regular	792	410	51.8	No
Adjusted Total**	875	462	52.8	No

*Seventy-five percent of the students will master 75% of their specified objectives.

**This total excludes the duplicated counts who fell into two or more of the participant categories.

As can be seen in Table 2:

- Incarcerated met the performance standard.
- The other four categories did not meet the performance standard.
- Total program results indicate that <u>overall the performance standard was not met</u>.

A comparison of the 1986-87 and 1987-88 participant categorical attainment rates by category is found below in Table 3.

TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF 1986-87 AND 1987-88 ATTAINMENT RESULTS BY PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES.

Participant Category	Percent of Attainment 1986-87	1987-88	Difference
Handicapped	60.3%	24.6%	-35.7%
ESL	95.1%	61.3%	-33.8%
Incarcerated	93.8%	78.6%	-15.2%
Regular	61.0%	51.8%	- 9.2%
Adjusted Total*	68.4%	52.8%	-15.6%

*This total reflects the percent attainment and differences when duplicate counts are not incorporated.

A review of Table 3 above indicates that all participant categories, handicapped, ESL, incarcerated, and regular evidenced losses of -35.7%, -33.8%, -15.2%, and -9.2% respectively. From 1986-87 to 1987-88 total program results demonstrated a loss of 15.6% of the students meeting the standard.

Cooperative Arrangements

Another goal established by the ABE program was to have cooperative arrangements between various local agencies. During the 1987-88 school year the ABE program had agreements with the following 12 agencies:

- Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center
- Michigan Employment Security Commission
- Opportunities Industrialization Center/Metropolitan Saginaw
- Saginaw Commission on Aging
- SER: Jobs for Progress
- Saginaw County Department of Social Services
- Saginaw County Community Action Center
- Saginaw County Jail

- Saginaw County Child Development Center
- Saginaw County Mental Health Services
- Saginaw Neighborhood, Inc.
- Saginaw Community Village

According to program records and discussions with the program supervisor these arrangements worked to the advantage of all agencies involved.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

During the 1987-88 school year, 1,076 received services from the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. Instruction was offered in reading, mathematics, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Michigan Life Role Competencies (MLRC) at 18 sites throughout Saginaw.

The 1987-88 proposal consisted of 11 objectives of which 8 (72.7%) were met, compared to 5 out of the 11 (45.5%) for 1986-87. When participant categories are considered for student achievement, incarcerated participants met performance standards while the four other groups did not. The overall student achievement standard was not attained for the total program. This year the ABE program, when considered as a whole, evidenced a loss in student achievement over last year.

Table 4 on the next page summarizes this year's objective attainments with a full description of the objective attainments found in Appendix D.

TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF ATTAINMENT STATUS OF THE 1987-88 ABE OBJECTIVES.

Obj. #	Objective Description and Standard	Performance Standard Achieved
1	English as a Second Language instruction: 10% of the program enrollment will be adults with limited English language skills.	Yes
2	Services to urban adults with high rates of unemployment: 15% of the program participants are unemployed.	Yes
3	Services to adults from rural areas: 15% of program participants reside in rural areas.	No
4	Educational services to institutionalized adults: at least 32 weeks of instruction were afforded inmates.	Yes
5	Services to handicapped adults: 10% of the 1987-88 student enrollment will be handicapped adults.	No
6	Services to minority groups: 75% of the program participants were members of minority groups.	Yes
7	Services to women with special needs: at least 15% of the program participants are ADC recipients and/or are single female heads of households.	Yes
8	Recruitment: at least 10% of the 1987-88 program's enrollment were new students.	Yes
9	Student goals/objectives: Individual objectives will be selected for 100% of the students enrolled 12 hours or more. 75% of the students will attain 75% of their individually selected objectives.	No
10	Dropout prevention: Student dropout rate will be less than 40%.	Yes
11	Cooperative arrangements: There will be documentation indicating cooperative efforts with 100% of 12 community governmental agencies.	Yes

As a result of the 1987-88 ABE process and product data, the following specific recommendations have been formulated and can be found on the following pages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations based on both process and product evaluation results are offered to help improve the ABE program:

- Since the dropout rate continues to be at or above 40%, careful review and documentation needs to be done repeatedly throughout the program year.
- The supervisor should continue to review the correct reporting procedures with the staff before the first data pick-up date. This review process has greatly improved the accuracy of demographic data.
- Extend the review of objective sheets to insure that all students who attend 12 or more hours are assigned individual objectives.
- A staff inservice should be planned to discuss and review the following: 1) how much time should be spent on each subject area, 2) the importance of homework, 3) how to use positive reinforcement to increase positive student outcomes, and 4) how assessments can be incorporated into the teaching and learning process.
- A handbook should be written to promote and standardize classroom operations in terms of the following: all subjects are instructed during each class session, all classes start on time, and Instructional Theory Into Practice (ITIP) procedures are included in the delivery of instructional material.
- On site visitations should be continued. This would allow the monitoring classroom operations and provide the opportunity to observe classroom testing procedure.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION CENTERS 1987-1988

Center Name	Street Address
Audra Frances Center	2717 Webber
Bethel A.M.E. Church	535 Cathay
Community Village	3200 Hospital Road
County Jail	208 So. Harrison
Elmwood Manor	2814 E. Genesee
First Ward Community Center	1410 N. 12th
Grace Presbyterian Church	600 Dearborn
Highland Park Center	3267 Wadsworth
Maplewood Manor	535 S. Warren
Marie Davis Center	222 N. Weadock
Neighborhood House	3145 Russell
Opportunities Industrialization Center	1000 Tuscola
Redeemer	3829 Lamson
Rosien Tower	310 S. Harrison
Ruben Daniels Lifelong Learning Center	115 W. Genesee
Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation	919 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
SER: Jobs for Progress	1535 So. Warren
Tabernacle Church	810 Cathay
Trinity Center	346 So. 9th Street

APPENDIX B

TABLE B.1. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF 1987-88 ABE PARTICIPANTS BY RACIAL/ETHNIC CATEGORY.

American Indian		Black		Oriental		Hispanic		White		No Response		Total	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2	0.2	570	53.0	24	2.2	234	21.7	237	22.0	9	0.9	1,076	100.0

TABLE B.2. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF 1987-88 ABE PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND SEX.

Age Interval	Male		Female		No Response		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
14-24	251	48.4	172	31.2	1	16.7	424	39.4
25-44	190	36.6	218	39.6	0	0.0	408	37.9
45-59	40	7.7	78	14.2	0	0.0	118	11.0
60 and Over	33	6.4	75	13.6	0	0.0	108	10.0
No Response*	5	0.9	8	1.4	5	83.3	18	1.7
TOTAL	519	100.0	551	100.0	6	100.0	1,076	100.0

*Five individuals lacked a sex code in no response to age category.

Saginaw Adult Basic Education Objective Reporting Form

F670

PLEASE NOTE: This form is to be completed by each teacher. The OBJECTIVE REPORT SECTION MUST be updated every 9 weeks indicating objective mastery and additional objectives.

STUDENT _____ LAST _____ FIRST _____

STUDENT NO. _____

CLASS _____ TEACHER _____

ENTRY DATE _____ DROP DATE _____ CODE _____

TRANSFERRED TO: CLASS _____ DATE _____ LEVEL _____ LEVEL MOVEMENT _____ TEACHER _____

_____ MALE _____ MARRIED _____ NEW STUDENT _____ IMMIGRANT ADULT

_____ FEMALE _____ SEPARATED _____ RETURNING STUDENT

_____ 60 and over _____ WIDOW _____ INSTITUTIONALIZED

_____ UNEMPLOYED _____ SINGLE FEMALE _____ LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING

_____ EMPLOYED _____ ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE _____ HANDICAPPED

ETHNICITY CODE

_____ AMERICAN INDIAN (1) _____ ORIENTAL (3)

_____ BLACK (2) _____ HISPANIC (4)

_____ OTHER (5)

AGE _____

FIRST SEMESTER

PICKUP 1 2 — Num. TOTAL Hrs.

NO. OF HOURS ATTENDED

_____ ABE _____ ESL _____ BILINGUAL

OBJECTIVE NO.						LEVEL		PICKUP		OBJECTIVE NO.						LEVEL	
READING	I	II	IA	IB	IC	I	II	1	2	LANG. ARTS	I	II	IA	IB	IC	I	II
SPELLING										MATH							

PICK UP												PICK UP											
MLSC	AHA	CSS	PFW	EOS	HSA	II	III	I	II	1	2	MLSC	AHA	CSS	PFW	EOS	HSA	II	III	I	II	1	2

21

SECOND SEMESTER

PICKUP 3 4 — Num. TOTAL Hrs.

NO. OF HOURS ATTENDED

_____ ABE _____ ESL _____ BILINGUAL

OBJECTIVE NO.						LEVEL		PICKUP		OBJECTIVE NO.						LEVEL	
READING	I	II	IA	IB	IC	I	II	3	4	LANG. ARTS	I	II	IA	IB	IC	I	II
SPELLING										MATH							

PICK UP												PICK UP											
MLSC	AHA	CSS	PFW	EOS	HSA	II	III	I	II	3	4	MLSC	AHA	CSS	PFW	EOS	HSA	II	III	I	II	3	4

22

16

APPENDIX C

TABLE D.1. ATTAINMENT STATUS OF THE 1987-88 ABE OBJECTIVES.

Obj. #	Objective Description and Standard	Performance Standard Achieved	Supporting Data
1	English as a Second Language instruction: Review of documentation evidencing efforts to recruit foreign-born adults. Documentation will evidence that 10% of the program enrollment will be adults with limited English language skills.	Yes	10.3% of the population was ESL
2	Services to urban adults with high rates of unemployment: Documentation will show that 15% of the program participants are unemployed. Class records will show that Job and Employment Opportunities instruction was incorporated as part of the curriculum and that instruction and objective mastery evolved.	Yes	77.1% of program participants were unemployed. Class records showed that job and employment opportunities instruction was available
3	Services to adults from rural areas: Documentation will show that 15% of program participants reside in rural areas.	No	7.1% of the students resided in rural areas
4	Educational services to institutionalized adults: Records will show that at least 32 weeks of instruction were afforded inmates.	Yes	Records show that 32 weeks of instruction took place
5	Services to handicapped adults: Records will evidence that at least 10% of the 1987-88 student enrollment will be handicapped adults and that a cooperative agreement existed between Saginaw Adult Basic Education program and with Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center and Saginaw County Mental Health Services.	No	6.0% of program participants were handicapped adults
6	Services to minority groups: Records will show that 75% of the program participants were members of minority groups, i.e., Black, Mexican-Americans, Orientals, etc.	Yes	77.1% of all participants were minority

Table D.1 (Continued)

Obj. #	Objective Description and Standard	Performance Standard Achieved	Supporting Data
7	Services to women with special needs: Review of enrollment applications will evidence that at least 15% of the program participants are ADC recipients and/or are single female heads of households.	Yes	26.1% of program participants were women with special needs
8	Recruitment: Documentation will evidence that at least 10% of the 1986-87 program's enrollment were new students.	Yes	59.1% of the participants were new students
9	Student goals/objectives: Individual reading, math, MLRC and/or ESL objectives will be selected for 100% of the students enrolled 12 hours or more. 75% of the students will attain 75% of their individually selected objectives.	No	86.1% of students who were enrolled for 12 hours or more were assigned objectives. 52.8% of these students met the attainment standards
10	Dropout prevention: Student dropout rate will be less than 40% of the program population.	Yes	38.6% of the students left the program and did not return to the ABE program
11	Cooperative arrangements: There will be documentation indicating cooperative efforts with 100% of the following agencies: 1) SER: Jobs for Progress; 2) Opportunities Industrialization Center; 3) Michigan Employment Security Commission; 4) Saginaw Commission on Aging; 5) Saginaw County Department of Social Services; 6) Saginaw County Community Action Center; 7) Saginaw County Child Development Center; 8) Saginaw Neighborhood, Inc.; 9) Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center; 10) Saginaw County Community Mental Health Services; 11) Saginaw Community Village; and 12) Saginaw Neighborhood Incorporated.	Yes	Copies of letters of intent were provided to program evaluator.